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FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE LESS DEVELOPED AREAS

SUMMARY

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FOOD PROCESSING AND THE DEVELOPING SOCIETY

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FOOD PROCESSING AND THE DEVELOPING SOCIETY

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SUMMARY

1. Food technology is continually advancing because of research developments. The conventional processes of canning, drying, and freezing are being improved. New processes such as aseptic canning, freeze drying and dehydro-freezing will be gaining wider acceptance. These new procedures further increase the palatability and nutritional value found in traditionally processed foods. The economics of the conventional and newer methods are based on sound principles. Food that deteriorates rapidly or varies with the year or season in the quantity available promotes feast or famine unless it can be satisfactorily stored for use when needed. In the dairy industry, for example, steps in industry development are described and an orderly progression of improvement is discussed. Food processing methods and the benefits they afford are more likely to follow an evolutionary pattern of betterment than a revolutionary change.

2. The food processing industries have brought tremendous economic advantages in the production, processing, and distribution of foods. Of special significance in those countries where food processing has been developed to a high degree, the percent of per capita income required for food has been reduced materially. In the United States today, 20% of family income is spent for food whereas, 40 years ago 45% of the income was needed. Over a 100% drop. This reduction, in real cash needed for food, has been reflected in the money being spent for better housing, education, recreation and other goods and services.

3. The dairy industry, in our experience, has made notable contributions by recognizing and doing something about the need to provide milk to the populations of developing countries. Improved nutrition in itself furnishes healthy and more efficient citizens and employees for these countries. As a further result of a better established dairy industry, investment in farms, cattle, and milk processing equipment follows. There is even additional stimulation of industries which supply materials to the whole dairy complex. These industries include the glass and carton manufacturers, sugar and flavor producers, feed mixers, and transportation companies.

4. The vast reservoir of technical skills and know-how available in the more industrialized countries is of vital importance to the developing areas. Here is the opportunity to promote the individual's latent ability by the assistance of foreign scientists and technicians. The value of gaining this knowledge cannot be over-emphasized. Science, technology, and capital are all necessary, but without the application of experienced management and technical ability to catalyze these into action, progress will not occur. Those countries which provide incentives for their own people, for private investment, for personal initiative in collaboration with governmental objectives can have the opportunity to attract know-how experience in industry. Those companies with the needed know-how and experience are most anxious to assist.

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